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however, that a portion of them had been published already in different books ; nor that Herrera, and other Spanish writers, appear to have been well acquainted with most, if not all of them, and to have made use of them in the compilation of their histories of America. The manuscript states, that the originals are deposited in the monastery of Santa Maria de las Cuevas, at Seville ; and makes mention of *three* other copies, one written on paper, and two on parchment. Spotorno seems to have imagined, that no other copies of the manuscript were to be found in Italy. But this is a mistake. Mr Edward Everett, in a note to the Oration delivered by him at Plymouth, describes another copy of a portion of these documents, which he procured at Florence. This curious and valuable manuscript, which we have slightly examined and compared with Spotorno's book, is of parchment, written with great elegance, and bears every mark of being from two to three hundred years of age. It begins with Pope Alexander's bull of partition, and then follow the documents, which we have designated above, as the first set in the *Codice Diplomatico*. Another bull of Alexander's, copied on paper by a different hand, is also placed within the covers. Mr Everett's manuscript, so far as it goes, is a much more perfect one than the Oderigo manuscript ; as several passages, which Spotorno was unable to decipher in the latter, are very plain and legible in the former, which, indeed, is in most complete preservation. We hope Mr Everett will favor the public with a more particular account of his manuscript, and note the variations between this, and the printed copy.

ART. VIII.—*A Report on the Expediency of Augmenting the Duties on the Exportation of Gold and Silver, presented to the General Constituent Congress of Mexico, by the Committee of Finance and Mines, August 9, 1824.*

A MORE able public document, or one manifesting a deeper knowledge of the true principles of political economy, has seldom fallen into our hands, than this report to the Mexican Congress, respecting the expediency of imposing duties on

the exportation of gold and silver from that country. It will need but a slight examination to convince any one, that the subject is of immense importance to the Mexican Republic. Before the breaking out of the revolutions in South America, the whole product of the precious metals yearly, in the Spanish colonies and the Brazils, was fortythree millions of dollars, and of this amount about twentythree millions were produced in Mexico. The product of the eastern continent was less than five millions annually, so that one half of the annual supply of the precious metals of the whole globe, was derived from the Mexican mines. It is obvious, that articles produced in such abundance, and commanding so ready a sale as gold and silver, must exercise a wide influence over the commercial prosperity of a country, and are thereby special objects of the fostering attention of the government.

Aware of this fact, the General Congress, which convened immediately after the abdication of Iturbide, took the subject into consideration. Under the old colonial system, the duty on silver required by the Spanish government was eleven and a half per cent. By a previous law of Congress, it had now become reduced to three and a half. Some of the representatives, whose minds were not yet released from the trammels imposed in the days of oppression, thought this duty too low, and were alarmed at the facility with which the precious metals might slide out of the country. They proposed to raise the duty on exportation up to the old standard, and even higher, and thus strengthen the revenue, at the same time they obstructed the channels, through which they feared would escape too easily, what they deemed the most effective branch of the nation's wealth. This is the point discussed in the report under consideration.

It was not surprising, that some of the Mexican representatives, whose means of information must have been slender, and who have had few advantages for studying the improved principles of modern political science, should entertain erroneous views of a subject, which for ages was enveloped in darkness, even to the wisest and quickest minds. Till a comparatively recent date, it has been the faith of individuals and governments, that money, or gold and silver as such, constituted the only true wealth. The richest man was he, who had in his coffers the greatest amount of treasure, or

who possessed such commodities as would immediately command it ; and not he, who could secure for himself and his neighbors the largest stock of comforts, who could supply the wants of the greatest number of persons, by giving them profitable occupation, or who could contribute most to human happiness, by communicating life to the widest compass of human action. Hence the propensity of powerful individuals to grasp and hoard ; hence the abject poverty of the many, and the overgrown possessions of the few ; and hence the absurd laws passed by governments, to put restrictions on the circulation of gold and silver. Cicero says, that in his time, and before, the exportation of the precious metals was prohibited in Rome. The same laws continued to be reenacted, not only during the existence of the Roman empire, but in the different states of Europe, till comparatively modern times. Mr M'Culloch, the distinguished political economist of Edinburgh, mentions it as a curious fact, that when the East India Company was instituted in the year 1600, it obtained permission to export annually a certain quantity of foreign coin or bullion. This privilege was granted, however, only on condition, that within six months after the close of each voyage, the Company should import an amount of gold and silver, equal to that which it had exported. Even this practice of the Company was impugned, by the advocates of the old doctrine, and represented as injurious to the public interest. The maxim was, that all exportation of gold and silver was disadvantageous, that a nation was rich in proportion as it accumulated them, and that to be deprived of any part, even for a short time, was so far an encroachment upon the national wealth. This doctrine the Company did not pretend to controvert ; the advantage of the exportation was argued not from the fact, that what was received in return from India was actually of much greater value in England, than the precious metals sent out, but by attempting to show, that the commodities thus imported were sent to other countries, from which more gold and silver would be received in return, than had been exported to India. By this ingenious solution, the old theory, with all its absurdity, was made to square with a rational practice. This notion led to what were technically called the *mercantile system*, and the theory of the *balance of trade*, in both of which gold

and silver were considered as commodities of a peculiar kind, having an intrinsic value of a nature quite different from that, which attaches to any other articles of commerce.

Nor were the cobwebs of these prejudices entirely brushed away, till the comparatively recent investigations of these subjects produced the new science of political economy, which has developed principles of the utmost utility, and of universal application. The commerce of the civilised world is fast settling down on a broad and permanent basis, and gradually yielding to principles, which will give it a uniform character ; industry has its definite motives ; and the laws, which regulate human enterprise and action, have been reduced to a science, calculated to promote the best purposes of the social union in an unlimited progression. Some of the older countries have already begun to be richly profited by this science, and it is one of the most encouraging indications of the future prosperity of the southern republics, that their prominent legislators show themselves, by their public acts, to be well acquainted with the results, at which the experience and wisdom of the best regulated governments have arrived.

Among the most enlightened statesmen of the south, may be ranked Mr Lucas Alaman, who has for the last two years been Secretary of State for the Home Department and Foreign Affairs in Mexico. He was born in the city of Guanajuato, the capital of the rich mining district by that name, and is now thirtyfour years old. Till the age of nineteen he lived in his native city, or province, and early imbibed a taste for the sciences, particularly mineralogy. At this age he removed to the city of Mexico, where he devoted himself to his favorite studies, and became distinguished as a mathematician. To obtain a more thorough education, than his native country afforded, he went over to Europe, and after residing for a time in the schools of Madrid, he spent five years in travelling through the different countries of the continent, examining carefully the modes of government, laws, and institutions of each. At the end of seven years' absence he went back to Mexico, in 1820, prepared to take such a part in public transactions, as the exigencies of the time demanded, or as the voice of his countrymen might indicate. He was immediately chosen in the province of Guanajuato, to be one of the Mexican deputies to the Cortes in Madrid.

for which place he and his colleagues speedily took their departure. In the Cortes he was bold, independent, and unwearied in representing and defending the claims of Mexico to the privileges of self government, and the character of a separate nation. The unsuccessful efforts of the Mexican deputies, and the succeeding events in Spain, are well known.

From Madrid, Alaman proceeded to Paris, where he endeavored to form and organise a company for working the mines in Mexico. Failing in this attempt, he revived the project in London, and a company was soon established, under the name of the *United Mexican Mining Association*. To encourage the undertaking, Alaman promised to assume the direction of the Company's concerns in his own country. Operations are already commenced, and thus far the anticipations of the company are fully realised. At the end of the year 1822, he returned to Mexico, just in time to witness the overthrow of Iturbide's mock imperial dynasty; and under the provisional government, which was erected in the March following, consisting of the old congress, and Bravo, Guadalupe Victoria, and Negrete, as the executive, Alaman was appointed secretary for the home department and foreign affairs, which post he has ever since held. His report, at the time of his first appointment, to the old congress then in session, and his report in January last to the congress assembled under the new constitution, are proofs sufficient of his ability to fill with dignity and wisdom the high and responsible office, to which he has been called.

It is a favorite opinion of Alaman, and unquestionably a correct one, that the mining interests are at present of greater importance to Mexico, than any other. In both his reports he has set this subject in a strong light. According to Humboldt, there are three thousand mines in New Spain, from which the precious metals have been extracted. It is remarked, also, of the Mexican mines, that the ore is poor in quality, although abundant in quantity, and hence it must require a great amount of manual labor to work them. The persons employed in the celebrated mine of Valenciana alone were upwards of two thousand. This mass of population devoted to the mines must draw its support from the products of the surrounding country, and thus give an impulse to agriculture, manufactures, and all the mechanic arts useful in the

common purposes of life. Industry will be quickened, and an active, enterprising population increased, in proportion to the demand for the results of different kinds of labor; and, moreover, these same agriculturalists and manufacturers, who supply the wants of the miners, will themselves want articles of foreign growth, which will be paid for by the produce of the mines. In this way a healthful circulation will be kept up through all the veins and arteries of the republic; external commerce, and internal trade, industry, and wealth will flourish together. This truth is confirmed by the present state of the mining districts, which enjoyed a high degree of prosperity, while the mines were worked, even under the restrictions of the old oppressive government, but which have become depopulated and miserable as the mining operations have ceased. In short, the precious metals in Mexico are to be regarded in the same light, as the great staple commodities of other countries, the cotton, tobacco, and flour of the United States, and the coffee and sugar of the West Indies. And such is the aspect in which Alaman, and the enlightened statesmen of Mexico, after conquering old prejudices, now view them, and on this principle the business of mining is beginning to be renewed with vigor, and under auspices that ensure success. By the secretary's last report it appears, that three companies have been formed in England, and one in Germany, for mining operations in Mexico. A large capital is already made effective for the purpose, and the mines of Guanaxuato, Valenciana, Del Monte, Rayas, Cata, Sirena, and Catorce, are now in action. The mine of Concepcion has also been drained by a steam engine, and another is set up at Temascaltepec. These machines have fully answered expectation, and, where fuel abounds, may be used to great advantage, but the secretary accounts the introduction of them generally as a question difficult to be solved. In what the difficulty consists he leaves us to conjecture.

But it is time for us to return to the report of the committee on finance and mines, with which we set out. We have given way to these remarks on the labors of Mr Alaman, because we believe him to have been chiefly instrumental in establishing, among his countrymen, the liberal and sound policy, on which the report is founded, and because he has been a zealous promoter of the projects for improving the

mining interest. As above stated, it was proposed in the congress to fix a higher duty than three and a half per cent, on the exportation of silver and gold, and to the expediency of this measure the attention of the committee was called.

Two objects only could be arrived at in imposing such a duty ; *first*, an increase of the revenue ; and, *secondly*, the retention of a larger amount of the precious metals in the country. The subject is to be examined with reference to each of these particulars.

First, in regard to the revenue, it is important to keep in mind a very definite and obvious principle, which is, that in raising a tax of this nature, the simplest machinery should be put in action, with which the end can be attained. By a fundamental axiom in political economy it will appear, that whatever amount of imports are brought into a country, the same amount of the products of that country in exchangeable value must be sent out. Mercantile intercourse can be kept up only where this equilibrium exists. Since this is the case, the effects of a duty on the price of articles, or the means of the community to pay it, are the same, whether it be wholly levied on imports, or divided between articles imported and those produced in the country to be exported. If a duty of ten per cent be laid on a foreign article, when brought into port, and the article of home production given in exchange for it be allowed to go free, it will be the same thing, in regard to the amount of the revenue, as if five per cent were levied on each. But in tracing the operations attending the collection, we shall find a very essential difference between the two modes. An impost on the articles of home production becomes odious, from its being more immediately felt by the people, and from the means necessarily used in ascertaining and collecting it. Besides, there must be the expense of two sets of officers, one for the internal, and one for the impost, or customhouse duties, and these expenses will diminish the revenue in proportion to their amount. On general principles, therefore, it would seem that a tax on the exportation of gold and silver would be injudicious.

It is moreover to be considered, that coin cannot be exported at all, except in exchange for goods of equal value imported from other countries ; but the duties on these goods have already been raised so high, in the various shapes of

tonnage, importation, and inland duties, as to leave but a moderate profit to the importers, at the present price of the precious metals ; and if this price were raised ten per cent or more by a duty, as proposed, it would be necessary to reduce the duty on imported goods in the same ratio, or else the regular course of commerce must stop. The value of gold and silver in Mexico must be regulated by their value in other parts of the world, and if, by any forced measures, the price there be raised above this level, no purchasers will appear to take them away. Hence, in the present commercial state of Mexico, such a duty would derange rather than benefit the revenue. The usual commerce could only be carried on, either by reducing the tariff on imported commodities, or by raising the price of them to a level with the new duty on the articles received in exchange. In either case nothing would be gained.

The encouragement to smuggling, and frauds on the revenue, by an excessive duty, are not to be forgotten. This is worthy of particular notice, when we take into view the long habits of colonial commerce under the ancient oppression, and the facilities of sending out of the country, in a secret manner, articles of so little bulk compared with their value, as the precious metals. There is such a thing as raising a tariff, till the revenue disappears ; and when such a temptation is held out to a violation of the laws, the loss sustained in the public finances is not the worst evil ; the morals of a portion of the community are vitiated, and the exertions of honest merchants are deprived of a just reward by the competition of illegal traffickers.

On grounds like these the committee decided, that it was not expedient to fix a duty on the exportation of gold and silver, with the view of aiding the revenue.

The second branch of the subject, namely, the expediency of a duty for the purpose of retaining the gold and silver in the country, may be considered under various aspects. In examining this topic, the precious metals are to be taken either as coin for circulation, or as a product of the soil to be exchanged as such for other commodities. Silver and gold, in the character of money, are valuable only as a medium of exchange ; they cannot be consumed, nor appropriated to gratify, by their own use, any personal want or desire. The

value of money is not determined by its quantity alone, but by this in connexion with the rapidity of its circulation. When trade is dull, or in other words, when exchanges are very few, money is cheap; but when exchanges are quick and numerous, money becomes in demand, and rises in value. If in a given period a thousand dollars will effect a certain number of exchanges, and if at another time five hundred dollars, by a more rapid circulation, will effect double the number of exchanges in the same time, and in the same amount of property, it is obvious that the five hundred dollars in one case will have performed the same service as the thousand in the other. It is obvious, also, that the value of the money will be higher, when it is performing this rate of service, than when it is doing only half as much. Hence money has not a fixed intrinsic value, but one that fluctuates in proportion to the demand for it as a medium of circulation. Suppose there is just money enough in a community to carry on with convenience all the operations of mercantile exchange, and in this state of things, suppose the amount to be increased one half, the quantity of goods and the demand for consumption remaining the same. What will be the consequence? The yard of cloth, that was before sold for a dollar, will now be sold for two, and money will have fallen one half in value; or, if you choose to view it in another light, the value of the cloth will be doubled, so as to produce an equilibrium with the money. But take it which way you will, the community gains nothing by the process. It adds nothing to the wealth of a nation, to have the mass of circulating coin increased twofold, if all the commodities purchased with it are enhanced to a double price; in fact, it is a waste, because money is forced into the useless office of circulation, which might be sold for its full value as a product.

Carry this principle a little farther, and we shall find not only a useless, but a positively injurious effect. By a restrictive duty a larger amount of coin is kept in the country, than is needed for circulation; its abundance diminishes its value, or, in other words, causes the relative price of articles for which it is given in exchange to rise; more money will be given for a commodity than it would command, if coin were suffered to flow into its natural courses, and find its natural level. This state of things will only happen, however,

in the country where the restrictive duty on exportation exists. And when goods are introduced, which have been manufactured in another country, where money is dearer because scarce, and where the goods are cheaper because the cost of production is less, they can be sold to a great advantage over the same kind of goods, manufactured in the country where the restrictive duty operates, because the cost of production is there in proportion to the forced relative value of the coin. Hence such a law would act as a check to manufactures, and make a nation dependent on foreigners for some of the commonest articles of consumption, which its best interests require to be produced by its own resources, capital, and labor.

It is, moreover, greatly for the interest of a country like Mexico, whose mineral treasures are so abundant, to afford all possible facilities for the exportation of coin. Where the production is so great, the natural tendency is to overstock the market, and to give a forced value to the circulating medium, which can only be truly profitable, when it sustains nearly the same relative value to other commodities, that it holds in commercial countries generally. It is important to Mexico, that money should be dear there, and then there will be a quick demand ; the imported commodities will be at a low price, and manufactures and numerous branches of industry will flourish, which could not otherwise be sustained, and the wealth and prosperity of the nation will be increased. Such results can only be brought about by opening every channel to a free departure of the surplus coin.

In the last place, if gold and silver be regarded merely as a product of the soil, one of the great staples of the country, the false policy of a duty on exportation will be equally apparent. In this point of view, the working of the mines, or the producing of this staple, becomes a most important branch of industry, which it is the part of a wise government to foster and protect. It has been mentioned above, that although the mines in Mexico are inexhaustible, the ore is not rich, and in most cases yields but a moderate profit to the miner. It follows, that any unnecessary burden upon this species of industry will prevent its being prosecuted, and thus paralyse a large amount of capital, and throw out of employment a numerous class of citizens, who can engage in no other occupation so advantageous to the state ; we say none so advan-

tageous, because this staple is more valuable to the state than any other. If the price of gold and silver be reduced by an unnatural increase of quantity, the cost of labor and all the materials requisite for working the mines, such as provisions, quicksilver, iron, and machinery, will be increased in the same ratio. Hence all those mines, which under favorable circumstances would do little more than meet the expense of working, must stop, when the price of silver and gold is reduced, and that of the articles necessary for subsistence and use is raised. If, for example, a thousand pounds of ore yield ten ounces of silver, and these ten ounces of silver be just enough to pay all the charges of production, the mine may be worked without a loss; but if the value of silver fall, by an increased quantity in the market, since the same amount of labor and other materials are requisite to produce the silver as before, and these at a higher price, it is manifest that the mine can no longer be worked; and that a duty, which should end in this result, would be most impolitic and ruinous. The only effectual laws for increasing production, and consequently a profit to the nation, will be those which afford the strongest encouragement to exportation. The great political economist, Ricardo, in his chapter respecting taxes on gold, has some remarks touching this subject, which do not seem to us altogether sound.

To make their views the more easily apprehended, by those members of the Congress not well versed in studies of this nature, the committee illustrate them by referring to the old regulation under the Spanish system. They affirm, that it is the same thing in effect, whether a tax be laid on the precious metals in the hands of the miner, as formerly, or a duty on exportation, which is supposed to be paid by foreigners. If the miner were now obliged to pay a tax of twenty per cent, or give one fifth of all he produces to the government, he would immediately find that he could not pursue his business without ruining himself. But the result would not be varied, although it would come less direct, if the same amount of duty were laid on exportation. The foreigner would pay it, in the first instance, it is true, but he would pay it in goods at a price advanced in proportion to the duty, and these goods the miner must purchase at this advanced price, by giving one fifth more gold for them, than he

would have done, had no duty been laid ; which is just the same to him, as if he had paid one fifth of his gold in a tax, and bought the goods at a proportional price. The same will hold true of all the goods he purchases, whether of domestic or foreign production, because the prices of all will be raised alike. The effect of these principles has already been seen in Mexico. The freedom of commerce now enjoyed, has reduced the price of foreign goods one half below that, which they maintained under the old restrictive system of Spain. The consequence has been a corresponding reduction in the price of home manufactures, notwithstanding the prejudices of the people in favor of their old habits, the impulse of interest, and the exertions of native enterprise to give the goods of home production an ascendancy in the market.

The committee close their report with two observations, in the nature of precautions, in one of which it is hinted, that a constitutional question is involved in the subject.

They state that such a measure, as the one contemplated in the proposed duty on the exportation of the precious metals, would derange the negotiations, which have been instituted in forming companies abroad for working the mines, and by which the fidelity of the government was virtually pledged to ensure as favorable prospects, at least, as those which existed when the engagements were made. The mining companies of Europe, employing in Mexico the capital of Europe, are conferring a great benefit on the nation, and actually providing the means for paying the interest on the loans, which the government has contracted abroad. Thus a mutual interest is growing up between Mexico and the European governments, by reason of the facilities afforded in Mexico for a profitable employment of capital, the consequent stimulus given to industry and enterprise, and the new and intimate commercial relations, that must necessarily be established. But impose this duty, and a check will be given to the companies already formed ; it will prevent others from forming, and create jealousy, and a suspicion of the good faith of the Mexican government, and a distrust of its future wisdom and firmness.

The objection to the duty, on constitutional grounds, arises out of the local situation of the mines. The constitution of

the Mexican Republic provides, as in the United States, that all taxes shall fall as equally as possible on each part of the union. Now the principal mines are situate in a few only of the provinces or states. A tax on silver, therefore, would not be equally borne, but settle most heavily on the states where it is produced. This is deemed unconstitutional. How far this argument deserves consideration we forbear to decide, but presume it should be allowed as much weight at least, as similar arguments in our own congress, where it has never been complained, that the watch towers of the constitution were guarded by drowsy sentinels.

We have thus presented, in as perspicuous a manner as we could, the principles contained in the report of the committee on finance and mines, together with such illustrations and remarks of our own, as have occurred to us in pursuing the subject. The sound policy and just views of the committee must be obvious, and a clearer proof of the wisdom of the Mexican congress could hardly be adduced, than the fact, that this report was unanimously adopted, and no additional duty was laid on the exportation of gold and silver. The committee state explicitly, that in their opinion the nation would be benefited by taking off the existing duty of three and a half per cent, but as this subject was not referred to them, no specific measure to that effect is recommended. This duty will doubtless soon be removed by the same enlightened policy, which has prevented its being increased.

Mr Alaman's last report to the congress shows the Mexican government to be sedulously devoted to the best interests of the nation. Vigilant attention is bestowed in affording all the encouragement, which the present state of the country will possibly admit, to every branch of industry, to the means of education, to agriculture, manufactures, and internal improvements. During the disasters of the revolution, many of the old colleges have been neglected, and have gone to decay, by reason of their revenues being withheld or diverted to other channels. Some of these will be immediately restored, and others established anew. A spirit begins already to prevail, in a few places, which promises good results. In San Luis Potosi there has been a voluntary subscription of fortytwo thousand dollars, for establishing a college; measures are adopting to restore another in Guanaxuato; and in Celaya

one is now in operation, in which scholarships are endowed. Primary schools are formed, and the governments of some of the states are preparing to establish them in all the towns and villages, by passing laws and appropriating funds for the purpose. Schools on the plan of mutual instruction have been successfully established in San Luis Potosi, Guadalajara, Guanajuato, and other places. It is an omen in the highest degree auspicious for the future liberty and prosperity of the southern republics, that their rulers apply themselves with so much zeal in advancing the cause of education. Colombia has set a brilliant example, both by her laws and her practice ; and the recent munificence of Bolivar, in aiding the schools of his native city, Caracas, has added a lustre to his name, which can never fade away, even if the glory of his conquests in defence of justice and liberty should perish.

It is a laudable effort, which the Mexican government are making, to restore and preserve all the ancient documents in the archives of the viceroyalties, and also the relics of antiquity now remaining. Several persons are constantly engaged in this work, and the arrangement of some of the branches is already completed in alphabetical order. Mr Alaman relates, that the index alone to the documents pertaining to the branch of tobacco, which have been assorted and arranged, comprises two folio volumes. The branch of excise has an index, which, together with the printed tracts on the subject, extends to eightytwo volumes. The number of documents, which have been transferred to the secretary's office in three branches alone, namely, finance, ecclesiastical benefices, and indulgences, amounts to four thousand five hundred and ninetysix. All these are so arranged, that, by the aid of the index, any document can be immediately found. A curious history of the oppression, folly, and superstition of the old Spanish government in Mexico, will probably be one day drawn from this mass of materials. Many specimens of antiquity are still preserved. A museum to contain the whole is proposed.

Improvements are taking place in the manufactures of Mexico, caused chiefly by the abundant introduction of foreign fabrics, and the necessity of making articles nearly as good, to secure for them a market. Cotton spinning machines, on the plan of those in the United States, have been erected

with entire success. Privileges and monopolies for cotton manufactories have been solicited from congress, but as yet these have not been granted. A paper manufactory is established at San Luis Potosi, and another is erecting in the vicinity of Mexico. At Durango a glass house is in successful operation. Agriculture is pursued with more advantage than formerly ; olive trees, vineyards, silkworms, and coffee are cultivated, and promise to open a wide and profitable field for future industry.

In short, the prospects of Mexico never shone so brightly as at the present moment. A form of government is adopted, which has been the deliberate choice of the people ; internal commotions are quelled ; the arts and the enjoyments of peace are taking place of the distractions, privations, and sufferings of war ; habits conducive to a new and better state of things are rapidly forming ; and the benefits of the change will soon be understood and deeply felt. The government is in the hands of men, whose patriotism and virtue have been tried by a long and bitter experience. Gaudalupe Victoria, and General Bravo, the President and Vice President of Mexico, have been conspicuous actors through the whole revolutionary scenes ; they have always been found on the side of humanity, justice, and liberty ; skilful in war, brave in battle, and true at all times, they have resisted tyranny with equal firmness, whether in the person of a Spanish viceroy, or a self styled emperor ; their ambition has been to see their country independent, enlightened, and happy. With such men as these, aided by the political wisdom of others less known, but not less worthy, the liberties of Mexico are secure. We have fears, that the federative system of government will fail of its purposes, that some of the extremes are but ill qualified to act wisely for themselves, and that the parts in general are too loosely attached to each other to be easily controlled by the head. A temporary experiment of the central system, like that of Colombia, would have been more safe. But whatever intermediate events may occur, the result is certain ; the Mexican people are fully qualified to govern themselves, and they will soon learn to do it in the best way.
